



Flight Patterns

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Spring 2016

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio



SAVE THE DATE!



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TMAS BOARD MEETINGS, Tuesday, March 29, 7 pm and Tuesday, May 31, 2016, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

ANNUAL TMAS SUMMER PICNIC July 5 at Kendrick Woods, JAMPD. Park information and directions can be found on the Johnny Appleseed Metro Parks website www.jampd.com/parks-facilities/kendrick-woods and in the TMAS Summer newsletter sent in June.

A BIRD, NOT AT YOUR FEEDER

By Jeannine C. Roediger

I have a love affair with the horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Since my husband and I live on a farm I see them summer, spring, fall and winter. Their sweet voices, heard on the wing, add a cheer to many a dreary, winter day.

One sees them often in large flocks on the side of roads and I see them daily in my walks across the fields, especially in winter and spring before the crops grow, for they love open spaces. They won't come, or very rarely do, to bird feeders even in the worst of weather.

So for the last several years when the snows are heavy across the open fields I go out beyond our buildings and scatter cracked corn just for the horned larks. One particular snowy winter I think I drew in over 200 of these wonderful, although often overlooked larks, the only true lark in the New World, according to *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Eastern Region*.

But what thrilled me the most was their habit of circling above our barnyard all the while serenading me with their musical notes, waiting for me to come out and put out that cracked corn. Then, when the weather moderated and the snow melted, they again left my designated feeding area for those open fields.

Just a few days ago when we had a snowfall that covered the ground I saw them grouped near the road so took out some corn just to ensure they had a food supply. They came in, as always, until the snow left, then went back to the fields where I still hear their tinkling music each morning. I like to think they know I'll be there when the next snowfall covers the ground.



FUNDRAISING REPORTS

The February 6, 2016 Winter Birdseed Sale realized a profit of \$459.32 (including \$133.95 in donations). Both fall and winter sales were down, most likely affected by mild seasonal weather. Our thanks to Anne Smedley, Bob and Carol Bertrand, Denny Bucholtz and DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace for assistance with the sale.

The last newsletter included an interim report on the chapter's October 10 recycle stint in Wapakoneta. The amount of recyclables was about the usual, but low oil prices (plastic connection) and almost nil Chinese purchasing of recyclables have resulted in plunging prices. The \$286.15 earned was \$439.32 less than 2014. However, we recycle because it is the right thing to do for this planet of ours. Your board voted to continue this commendable community venture.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers and board members will be held on May 3, 2016 just prior to the regularly scheduled program meeting. Nominations are open for secretary and a member-at-large (three year term). The office of vice president remains open and a candidate will be appointed to fill the open term. Send nominations to Bob Bertrand @419.227.9231 or to the chapter's mailing address before Friday, March 25. Nominations will be presented at the April 5 program meeting. Prior consent of nominees is required.



Upcoming Programs and Field Trips

PROGRAM MEETING – Update on Myeerah Nature Preserve – Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7:30pm

Kris Myers from Bellefontaine Parks & Recreation Department will give an update on the progress, challenges, and goals of preserving Myeerah Natural Area. TMAS facilitated the purchase of Myeerah from the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and transfer to Bellefontaine Parks & Rec. This unique area has old growth forest, restored prairie, restored wetlands, a fishing pond, and numerous trails. Hundreds species of resident and migratory birds, salamanders, butterflies, fish, and other wildlife call Myeerah home. Myeerah is also the location of TMAS's Environmental Education weekend which is held annually during the first weekend in May. Myeerah Natural Area is open to the public from dawn until dusk, and is located at 7405 St. Rt. 540, Bellefontaine, OH. Come see what Myeerah is all about!

KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE FIELD TRIP, Saturday, March 26, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, Wyandot/Marion counties provides us an opportunity to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots as we look for ducks, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, sparrows, and other passerines. Wear warm clothes and bring a lunch/snacks/beverages, field guides/binoculars, etc. Much of the birdwatching will be of the "park and look" variety, but there will be some walking. The chapter's spotting scope will be available for all to use. A carpool will depart at 10 a.m. from the Eastgate parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309, Lima. Participants may also meet the group at 11 a.m. at the Up-ground Reservoir (look on the Killdeer Plains website for map and location of Reservoir). Trippers may stay as late as dusk unless a Short-eared Owl turns up earlier in the day. The field trip is free and open to the public, experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Contact Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271 for additional information.

PROGRAM MEETING – Climate Change and Despair: How to Prevent At Least One– Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 7:30pm

Dr. Daniel Berger, a chemistry professor at Bluffton University, will discuss what is known about the causes of global climate change, and some things that might be done in response. A two-degree increase in the average global temperature could cause sea levels to rise, the decline of biodiversity, and a decrease in agricultural productivity. Dr. Berger will also differentiate between climate and weather. This informative talk seeks to increase awareness and motivation for energy conservation.

TECUMSEH NATURAL AREA, Saturday, April 23, 2012, OSU-Lima/Rhodes Campus. The wooded area around campus is one of the largest and most pristine wooded areas remaining in Allen County with approximately 200 acres of forest. The campus woodland represents a small segment of the original forest that used to cover this area and is thus part of Ohio's biological heritage. While primarily a beech/maple forest, there are also massive oaks and sycamore trees. In addition to many different wildflowers, there are trails, ponds, and a few other surprises in this woodland. We will meet on campus at 1:30 p.m. in front of Galvin Hall. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Please contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 for additional information.

PROGRAM MEETING – Bats: What you didn't learn watching Batman– Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 7:30pm

Marne Titchenell received her bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife management and forestry from The Ohio State University and is now a wildlife program specialist with Ohio State University Extension. Her expertise encompasses wildlife ecology and biology, habitat management for wildlife, and managing nuisance wildlife species, but she does have a fondness for bats. She has been a member of the Midwest Bat Working Group since 2009. Marne will discuss how and where bats roost and feed, and which species of bats are found in our area.

37TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND, Apr 29th – May 1st, 2016

Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will hold its 37th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW) at the Myeerah Nature Preserve, SR 540 near Bellefontaine. EEW provides an opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a truly unique environmental setting. Myeerah Nature Preserve is comprised of 450 acres of diverse habitat with meadows, lakes, streams and woodland. Myeerah Nature Preserve, one of 66 sites in Ohio, is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA). www.audubon.org/chapter/oh/oh/ibas.html

The educational programs offered will include opportunities to learn about and participate in field trips on birdwatching, wildflowers, stream/pond ecology, woody plants and other nature related programs. Timed to coincide with the spring migration of Neotropical migrant warblers and the spring wildflowers, the weekend will provide a truly unique family oriented educational opportunity.

EEW begins with registration starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, April 29th and ends on Sunday afternoon, May 1st. All meals are provided for Saturday and Sunday. Due to insurance considerations, this opportunity is **available for National Audubon members (or TMAS local Supporting members) and their immediate families only**. For information on joining the Audubon Society, please see the membership form found at the bottom of the registration sheet to be mailed in mid-March or contact Bill Askins at waskins@woh.rr.com or 419.339.9751. To view photos of previous weekends, visit the EEWWeekend Photo Gallery on Tri-Moraine Audubon's website at www.tri-moraineaudubon.org. Or, for further information concerning the weekend contact either Don Rosenbeck at dmrosenbeck@gmail.com or Eric Broughton at broughtoneri@yahoo.com.

BIG BIRDING DAY-WESTERN LAKE ERIE IBAs, Monday, May 9. This annual all-day trek by TMAS birders will visit six or seven of Lake Erie's best birding locations during the peak of the spring migration. A car pool will depart at 6:30 a.m. from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. The group will leave "rain or shine" and return in the evening. The goal is to spot and identify 100 bird species. Open to the public. All interested birders, including beginners, are welcome. For more info, contact Eric Broughton at 419.999.1987 or broughtoneri@yahoo.com.

Member Changes-National Audubon Society has made a number of membership changes. We don't have complete information yet, but here are a few details. Annual, single category, national/chapter dual membership (includes Audubon magazine) is now \$20 whether you are a new member, renewing member, single, couple, student, senior citizen, etc. Multiple year offerings are no longer available. Expiration dates no longer appear on your magazine mailing label. However, you can see your expiration date on your chapter newsletter mailing label (mo/yr-upper righthand corner). We have 40 memberships extending from 2018-2024. Check your membership expiration date. You may not need to renew. **NOTE**- Due to insurance requirements, the chapter requires membership to attend its annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW). Make sure that your national/chapter dual membership includes your spouse and for example, use "Smith Family" to cover parent(s) and children under 18 or grandparent(s) and children 18. The chapter's supporting membership information appears on the bottom of the EEW registration form in this newsletter. This membership does not include the magazine. If you have any membership questions, contact Bill Askins at 419.339.9751 or waskins@woh.rr.com

Save the Wildflowers: Join other nature enthusiasts to pull garlic mustard and pick up trash at JAMPD Kendrick's Woods, one of the six important bird areas for TMAS. Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that secretes toxins into the soil which kills many spring wildflowers. Scheduled workdays are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (9am-noon) April 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29 and May 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13. They are also scheduled to work Tuesdays and Thursdays (12:30pm-4pm) April 26 & 28 and May 3, 5, 10, 12. For more information or to register please contact JAMPD Land Steward Mark Mohr at 419.221.1232

Annual Ottawa River Clean Up: Saturday, April 23, 9am-noon. We will start at the Red Cross Building in Lima to register and get supplies. Dress for the weather and gloves are mandatory. Youth are able to participate, but will be required to have permission as well as be accompanied by an adult. This is a great service project for involvement by TMAS. For more information call 419-221-5177, or check out www.allenswcd.com.

2015 Christmas Bird Count Results

Beginning at 0730 hrs at the McDonalds in Russells Point, a half dozen TMAS birders met for the Indian Lake CBC (OHIL) on Saturday, 19 December 2014. The day's counters included Andrew and Jackie Augustine, and Ashley Williams (Lima); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); and Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania) in three groups. Still water was mostly frozen and streams mostly open, and it was clear throughout the day. Temperatures were 21-28 F, with winds out of the WSW at 7-21 mph. For the day, 275.3 miles were covered in 19.25 group hours by car, and 3.5 miles in 3.5 group hours were covered on foot, between 0800 and 1730 hrs. The following OHIL birds were seen (new species or record high numbers over the last 25 years are bolded): Snow Goose, c.w. (= count week); Canada Goose, 591; Mute Swan, c.w.; Mallard, 299; No. Shoveler, 29; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Hooded Merganser, 10; Ruddy Duck, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 8; Turkey Vulture, 1; Bald eagle, 1; No. Harrier, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 18; Amer. Coot, 2; Sandhill Crane, 127; Bonaparte's Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 1201; Herring Gull, 13; Lesser Black-backed Gull, c.w.; gull, sp(p)., 120; Rock Pigeon, 58; Mourning Dove, 38; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 7; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 4; woodpecker, sp (p)., 3; Amer. Kestrel, 15; Blue Jay, 15; Amer. Crow, 32; Horned Lark, 224; chickadee, sp(p). 15; Tufted Titmouse, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Amer. Robin, 2; Euro. Starling, 1071; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 122; Song Sparrow, 8; sparrow sp., 10; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 416; No. Cardinal, 29; Purple Finch, c.w.; House Finch, 2; Amer. Goldfinch, 13; and, House Sparrow, 672. This is a total of 42 species, and 5275 individual birds counted on the day (in addition to the four species seen only during count week). Grey and Fox Squirrels, and White-tailed Deer were the only mammals reported for the day.

For the Grand Lake CBC (OHGL) on Sunday, 20 December 2015, TMAS counters arrived at 0730 hrs at McDonalds in St. Marys. Twelve counters, in five groups, were active during the day: Cheryl Erwin (Bellefontaine); Jared Mauch (Celina); Don and Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Eric Juterbock [coordinator] (Rushsylvania); Jackie and Andrew Augustine and Ashley Williams (Lima); Bill Angel and Jill Bowers (St. Marys); and Dianne Knipp and Troy Shively (Wapakoneta). We spent 19.75 group hours in cars covering 238 miles, and 10.25 group hours on foot over 12.15 miles, between 0800 and 1730 hrs. Ice and water conditions were essentially the same as for OHIL, as were the clear skies. The temperature ranged from 27-43 F with 10-19 mph winds, from the south.

We recorded the following OHGL birds: Snow Goose, 2; Canada Goose, 974; Gadwall, 12; American Wigeon, 5; Mallard, 331; No. Shoveler, 21; Canvasback, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 2; Bufflehead, 4; Ruddy Duck, 5; Great Blue Heron, 5; Bald Eagle, 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 16; Sandhill Crane, 7; Killdeer, 11; Ring-billed Gull, 785; Herring Gull, 31; gull, sp(p)., 396; Rock Pigeon, 124; Eurasian Collared-Dove, c.w.; Mourning Dove, 77; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 19; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; No. (Y-S) Flicker, 3; woodpecker, sp(p). 4; Amer. Kestrel, 18; Blue Jay, 61; Amer. Crow, 3; Horned Lark, 377; Carolina Chickadee, 7; chickadee, sp(p)., 25; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 22; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; E. Bluebird, 2; Amer. Robin, 19; Euro. Starling, 3466; Amer. Tree Sparrow, 112; Song Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 1; sparrow, sp(p)., 11; Dark-eyed (S-C) Junco, 153; No. Cardinal, 51; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; House Finch, 12; Pine Siskin, 26; Amer. Goldfinch, 27; and, House Sparrow, 1019. This is 50 species (plus one additional species count week) and 8356 individual birds; squirrels were the only mammals listed.

Although it would be a stretch to say that overall the results of the 2015 CBCs were totally unsurprising, little really stands out! There was one new count day species (for my records of last 27 years) for OHIL – Sandhill Crane. However, there were four previous count week records of the species there, most recently, 2011 and 2012. For no species in either count did we observe a record high count. One thing that did catch my eye was the number of species observed. Although we recorded more species at OHGL than at OHIL, that has been the case only 4 times since CBC 2000, twice in the past decade. However, in 14 of these past 16 counts, the count for which we had greater count effort yielded the greatest number of species, and OHGL had nearly twice the effort this year. For both counts, the total number of birds observed was mid-range. It would be extremely difficult to reliably quantify such a thing, but my impression was that, especially at OHGL, there was an unusually large number of irregularly observed species this year. Many of these were waterfowl, and the fact that we had not yet experienced a complete freeze-up no doubt explains that. It was a good year for juncos – both counts were at second highest numbers in last 27 years. Thanks to all of the volunteers! Once again, don't forget to look for opportunities to bird in the two CBC areas and the St. Marys River-Grand Lake IBA. Other IBAs in the Tri-Moraine area include Myeerah Nature Preserve, Lawrence Woods, Kendrick Woods and the Ferguson and Metzger Reservoirs. Bird data from any of these areas can be very useful in monitoring the health of the sites - keep your binoculars handy!

TRI-MORAINÉ



AUDUBON SOCIETY

Serving Allen • Auglaize • Hancock • Hardin • Logan • Mercer • Shelby • and Van Wert Counties in Ohio

P.O. Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Environmental Education Weekend
Registration Enclosed

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President's Message

It is an exciting time in the TMAS calendar year when field trips and programs renew our excitement about birding, ahhhspring migration! Please check the calendar of events for details and encourage your friends and family to join us for some great spring birding events.

If you have not participated in the EEW (educational weekend camp), check out the enclosed form for details. This is a great way to enrich your children and grandchildren in science education. It is a great financial value and educational investment. The final list of sessions is not complete, but from past EEWeekends, bird banding, plant identification, stream/water study, nature walks/wildflowers, crafts and more are awaiting your exploration at Myeerah Nature Preserve. If you cannot go yourself, consider providing a scholarship for a young family who would love to participate. You can donate via the 2016 Annual Appeal donations.



Our 2015 Annual appeal raised \$4,085. The chapter added money to your donations and at the September program meeting we presented a check for \$2500 to Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Manager Milt Miller, our program speaker. Our gift purchased seed and plantings for Phases Two and Three of the filtering wetland restoration on the south shore. This restoration provides habitat for birds of many species. Myeerah Nature Preserve continues to increase annual income by renting out facilities for weddings receptions, showers, reunions, etc. An additional stove and refrigerator were needed for the Lodge to accommodate large groups and your donations paid for both appliances. A small amount has been carried over to help meet 2016 needs. Join us at the March program meeting featuring Kris Myers and his Myeerah Nature Preserve presentation highlighting the activities, facility improvements, new educational programming, and land restoration projects. Although any of you have not been to Myeerah, TMAS has a close connection with the preserve and has led the effort to save this 450-acre gem for public use. The Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following 2015 Annual Appeal donors: Anonymous (17)-no name is listed unless consent was given on the donor form, Charlotte Apfelbeck, Mr. & Mrs. Dean M. Augsburger, Roy & Esther Baldrige, Bob & Carol Bertrand, Charlie & Maria Borba, Karen Hesson Brady, Doris M. Chivington, Robbin Clark, Joseph C. DaPore, Ken & Sondra Dreitzler, Ivan & Rachel Friesen, Jim & Jan Heinrich, John & Susan Hric, Judy Jacomet, Eric Juterbock, Dianne Knipp, Jane Krites-Bambi Markham, Bill & Jackie Light, Candace Newland, Bob & Margaret Obermeyer, Carmen Olszewski, Paul Parrick, Evelyn Prater, Don & Mary Rosenbeck, Elizabeth B. Shelly, Jim & Karen Spurgat, Jennifer Stark, Beth Theisen, Liz Vogt, Carol Waesch, George & Shirley Wolf, Jack A. Woodward and Carol Wright.

We also thank those members and friends who make in-kind and financial donations at other times of the year.

Dianne

2016 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM
April 29 – May 1, 2016

For more details, please visit our website at <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Early Bird - April 15, 2016 Regular - April 22, 2016

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 (please indicate if cell OR home)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____

List all other members of your family/group that will be attending (include ages if under 18): _____

Vehicle Make/Model: _____ License No.: _____

Your anticipated – Arrival date: _____ & time: _____ Departure date: _____ & time: _____

A. REGISTRATION FEE: Due to insurance regulations, the weekend is open to **Audubon MEMBERS ONLY**
 (To become a member, please **ALSO** complete the Supporting (Local) Membership form found below)
 Early Bird registration must be postmarked on or before 4-15-16; \$10.00 late fee due per person if postmarked after 4-22-16
 We reserve the right to limit the total number of attendees due to limited camp accommodations.
NOTICE: ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Qty	<u>Early Bird Registration</u> (On or before Apr 15)	<u>(Regular Registration)</u> (Apr 16 – 22)	<u>Registration Fee</u> (Qty x Fee)
_____ Adults (13 and older) -	@ \$30.00 each	Add \$10.00 each	_____
_____ Children (2 - 12) -	@ \$20.00 each	Add \$10.00 each	_____
_____ Children - Under 2 -	FREE	FREE	_____
Total Registration Fee:			_____

Please indicate any dietary restrictions/preferences: Veg _____ (# people) Other _____ (# people)

B. LODGING - Please indicate by (check) a **1st AND 2nd choice** (in case of unavailability of your 1st choice)
 (Please indicate the quantity of each desired **ONLY IF more than 1 unit is required** – i.e. 2 tents)

(1 st Choice)	(2nd Choice)	<u>ACCOMMODATIONS</u> (note total quantity available in each category)
_____	_____	PERSONAL TENT
_____	_____	TREEHOUSE (sleeps 6) - 4 units
_____	_____	DORMITORY (foam mattresses on floor - sleeps 30)
_____	_____	PLATFORM TENT (sleeps 4 - 5) – 4 units (2 wheelchair accessible units are available upon request)

Please make **checks payable** to **TRI-MORAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY**, and **Mail registration** form to Eric Broughton, 3167 Clement Dr, Lima OH 45806-1101.

A program brochure will be "mailed" as confirmation of your reservation; please indicate whether you would prefer to receive the brochure via _____ **e-mail** or _____ **regular mail**. (Please check only one.)

TMAS MYEERAH EEW POLICIES

- 1) Parents, grandparents and guardians must supervise the children under their care in a manner which assures the children's safety and that of other persons, as well as the environment.
- 2) No individual campfires are allowed.
- 3) No firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed.
- 4) All participants must adhere to the **Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District** policies.

Failure to follow these policies shall result in corrective action that may include expulsion from the campground and may affect future registration for EEW programs.

Become a Supporting Member of TRI-MORAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY – ONLY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY NOT NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERS

Tri-Moraine, a totally volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS).

TMAS serves Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties.

All members receive a membership card, eligibility to attend Environmental Education Weekend & the chapter's mailings including its quarterly newsletter. To report membership issues, contact Bill Askins at 419-339-9751 or e-mail waskins@woh.rr.com.

Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

Street, PO Box, Apt. No. _____ City, State, ZIP _____ E-mail _____

All dues renew annually at same rates:

[] Individual (18 and over) -- \$10 [] Couple -- \$15 [] Student (through HS) -- \$5 [] Do not share name with NAS

[] Family -- \$20 (Circle one): Parent(s)/children under 18 OR Grandparent(s)/children under 18 [] Contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please Circle desired newsletter format: Paper or E-mail [] Do not send Flight Patterns (newsletter)

Check for \$ _____ enclosed (Payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society - PO Box 5648 Lima, OH 45802-5648)